

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MILTON DIAL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Milton Dial, a talented and dedicated Deputy Associate Director of the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service whose service will be missed upon his retirement. In this capacity, Milton has been responsible for the oversight of natural resources transactions between the Federal Government and the industry. Milton has been a faithful servant of the Department of the Interior and steward of our public lands for 32 years, and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Milton received both his bachelor of science and masters degree in business administration from Arizona State University, and immediately began working as a supervisor auditor for the Inspector General's office from 1971 to 1979. He later moved over to the mineral management division where he has served in numerous positions such as deputy conservation manager for offshore royalty with the U.S. Geological Survey, senior technical advisor to the associate director, chief of the Royalty Compliance and the Valuation and Standards divisions, and manager of the royalty in-kind program at Minerals Management Service.

Mr. Speaker, Milton Dial is an industrious public servant who has always gone the extra mile to make sure that the job is done quickly and appropriately. I, along with my fellow Americans am indebted to him for his dedicated service to the management of our public lands. It is a privilege to recognize his efforts before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you for all your hard work, Milton, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

DISABLED VETERANS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2004

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HOYER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and I are honored to introduce this bipartisan legislation to help our severely wounded soldiers returning home from the field of battle.

With the number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq moving past 1,000 this week and over 7,000 servicemen and women wounded in combat, we believe Congress must act now—before we leave in October—to help these heroes and heroines. Many of these surviving men and women now face the daunting task of rebuilding their lives with severe disabilities—soldiers who have lost a limb, been blinded or lost an eye, suffered a disabling brain injury, or disfiguring burns or wounds. They have served their country without question honorably and bravely, and they deserve our help now to transition back to civilian life as they work to put their lives back together.

This simple and straightforward bill would work quickly and appropriately to address the

needs of our wounded troops. First, it honors all servicemembers in each of the U.S. Forces with deeds as well as words by helping them when they need us most. Second, it honors the Army and Department of Defense for recognizing this critical need and initiating the Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3) program in April 2004. The current program provides the Army's severely disabled soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy to assist them as they transition from military service back to civilian life. DS3 has been able to step in to advocate for soldiers and their families by working with government agencies to resolve pay, benefits, entitlements, and care issues. We applaud these efforts and believe with adequate resources they can continue to help more wounded servicemembers.

Third and most important, this bill expresses congressional support for the DS3 program and extends the same assistance to all wounded Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Guardsmen and Reservists. We believe that the Congress must adequately fund the DS3 program and expand it to include all branches of the service since all branches have served this Nation in harm's way.

While both the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs have voiced their support for this program, DS3 is currently staffed by only 10 people and has a budget of only \$1 million dollars. This bill would give the Secretary of Defense the authority to correct that by providing the reprogramming authority necessary for adequate staffing to assist the number of wounded servicemembers returning from overseas. This bill would also designate an executive agent within the DoD with the authority and responsibility to carry out the program in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security for all U.S. servicemembers with severe disabilities.

What these soldiers and their families must face as they return home is unimaginable to most Americans including many of us in Congress. We are a grateful Nation for all our brave men and women in uniform do to protect the very freedoms we enjoy each and every day. How we treat these new veterans as they return home will be a great test to this generation, and we believe this is a small program that can make a huge difference.

This bill has been endorsed by the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), the PAV, DAV, VFW, AMVETS, and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), and has the support of over 40 other military and veteran organizations. We urge the leadership in both Houses on both sides of the aisle to bring this bill to the floor quickly for passage and send it to the President to be signed into law in the next few weeks. With so many severely wounded in the system now, we cannot wait for a new Congress. We urge our colleagues to act now.

CONFERENCE OF MAYORS CALLS FOR ADDITIONAL SUPERFUND DOLLARS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, as the representative of a district which con-

tains a number of abandoned industrial sites, I have a particular interest in the Superfund program. Sadly, the priorities of the congressional majority and the current administration do not include Superfund, and as a consequence, this important environmental clean-up program has been denied the resources needed to meet the promise we have made to many American communities.

In my own district there are three Superfund sites on which I have worked hard, and where we have made some progress, but where inadequate funding threatens to deny the people of the city of New Bedford and the towns of Fairhaven and Norton the full environmental response to which they are entitled by federal law.

This is a problem of national scope, as evidenced by the fact that the United States Conference of Mayors, one of the leading voices for sensible public policies in our country, recently passed a resolution at its 72nd annual meeting in Boston calling for "increasing appropriation levels for Superfund." The resolution notes the slowdown in remediation that is taking place because of the preference for tax cuts for the wealthy over important public needs, and urges us to increase the Superfund appropriation by \$300 million a year for the next 5 years.

This is a very well informed and important statement from a group of thoughtful public officials who share with us the responsibility for public policy in this country, and I ask that the Conference of Mayors' very cogent resolution be printed here.

INCREASING APPROPRIATION LEVELS FOR SUPERFUND

Whereas, the Environmental Protection Agency has developed plans, designs, and records of decision for the remediation of large hazardous waste sites, many of them located in or near urban areas; and

Whereas, such plans, designs, and records of decision were developed at great cost and over many years, in close consultation with local and state governments; and

Whereas, EPA and its state and local partners have fielded teams capable of remediating such sites; and

Whereas, because of inadequate funding, actual performance of the agreed upon remedies has been put on hold, or slowed down; and

Whereas, because of inadequate funding some large sites, such as New Bedford Harbor, in New Bedford, MA, have been put on a 26 year cleanup schedule; and

Whereas, such a stretched out remediation is likely to greatly increase the ultimate cost of cleanup to the federal and state governments; and

Whereas, such a stretched out or delayed cleanup schedule is likely to undermine the feasibility of selected remedies, necessitating a new and expensive planning and design process in the future; and

Whereas, such delays perpetuate the public health and environmental threat posed by such sites; and

Whereas, delays in cleanup impose severe obstacles to economic development in many cities; and

Whereas, the money needs of many of the largest sites, which have been in the system for many years, have created a blockage in the system, interfering with EPA's ability to list new sites or to perform remedies at smaller sites; and

Whereas, the problems presented by large sites that are ready for construction can be resolved through an increase in appropriations for Superfund of \$300 million a year for the next five years; and